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RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHWN #0396 0941533
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 041533Z APR 07
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO RUEHDG/AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO 5841
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4479

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 000396

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AIDAC

E.O. 12958:N/A

TAGS: AMGT EAID ASEC OTRA BB XL

SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE GRANTED TO NOBLE TO TRAVEL TO BARBADOS

REF: SANTO DOMINIGO 00725

¶1. EMBASSY BRIDGETOWN GRANTS COUNTRY CLEARANCE TO DAVID NOBLE, REGIONAL CONTROLLER, TO TRAVEL TO BARBADOS ON OR ABOUT APRIL 17-21, 2007 TO PREPARE FOR THE TRANSFER OF THE BARBADOS MISSION ACCOUNTING RECORDS FROM JAMAICA TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

¶2. EMBASSY POINT OF CONTACT IS USAID REPRESENTATIVE JAMES GOGGIN, PHONE: 1(246) 227-4118, FAX: 1(246)228-8589. MR. NOBLE WILL BE MET AT THE AIRPORT, BY LIONEL FRANKLYN, USAID DRIVER, AND TAKEN TO THE ALLAMANDA BEACH HOTEL, HASTING CHRIST CHURCH, TELPHONE (246) 438-1000.

¶3. THE EXCHANGE RATE IS APPROXIMATELY 2.00 BDS FOR \$1.00 USD. U.S CURRENCY, TRAVELER'S CHECKS, AND CREDIT CARDS ARE ROUTINELY AND WIDELY ACCEPTED HERE.

¶4. ENTRY/DEPARTURE REQUIREMENTS: MISSION POLICY IS THAT ALL USG TRAVELERS TO THE REGION BE IN POSSESSION OF A VALID PASSPORT. VISAS ARE NOT REQUIRED FOR SHORT VISITS. VISITORS ARE GRANTED UP TO 28 DAYS UPON ENTRY, WHICH CAN BE EXTENDED THROUGH THE BARBADOS IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT FOR UP TO SIX MONTHS. THERE IS A DEPARTURE TAX OF BDS\$60.00 OR US\$30.00 WHICH SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE COST OF THE AIRTICKET.

¶5. THE FOLLOWING GENERAL INFORMATION PERTAINS TO TRANSPORTATION, SECURITY AND HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN:

SECURITY

IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN, FOOT TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF WELL-ESTABLISHED TOURIST AREAS IS NOT GENERALLY RECOMMENDED ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT. BE VIGILANT WHEN USING PUBLIC TELEPHONES OR ATM FACILITIES NEAR ROADSIDES OR QUIET AREAS. AS IN MANY U.S. METROPOLITAN AREAS, WEARING EXPENSIVE JEWELRY, CARRYING EXPENSIVE OBJECTS, OR CARRYING LARGE AMOUNTS OF CASH SHOULD BE AVOIDED. VISITORS SHOULD ALSO SAFEGUARD VALUABLES WHILE AT THE BEACH. WHILE HOTELS ARE GENERALLY SAFE, MANY VISITORS HAVE EXPERIENCED LOSS OF UNATTENDED ITEMS. HOTEL BURGLARIES ARE NOT UNCOMMON, AND ALL VALUABLES SHOULD BE LOCKED IN ROOM SAFES.

HEALTH INFORMATION

THROUGHOUT THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN, THE MOST LIKELY THREAT TO A VISITOR'S HEALTH IS SUNBURN. IT TAKES SEVERAL WEEKS TO BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO THE HEAT AND HUMIDITY. PROLONGED EXPOSURE TO THE SUN, WITHOUT PROTECTION, CAUSES SUNBURN AND MAY ULTIMATELY RESULT IN SUN-DAMAGED SKIN OR EVEN SKIN CANCER. SUNSCREENS SHOULD BE USED FOR PROTECTION. IN BARBADOS, ST. LUCIA, AND ST. VINCENT THE MAJOR HEALTH THREAT IS DENGUE FEVER, TRANSMITTED BY MOSQUITO. DENGUE CASES ARE MOST OFTEN SEEN IN THE SUMMER MONTHS. PERSONS SHOULD THEREFORE PROTECT THEMSELVES WITH INSECT REPELLANT. THERE IS ALSO A GROWING NUMBER OF HIV/AIDS CASES REPORTED. THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN ENJOYS CLEAN AND SAFE DRINKING WATER. ONLY ROUTINE BOOSTERS FOR IMMUNIZATIONS (I.E. TETANUS, DIPHTHERIA, AND ORAL POLIO VACCINE) ARE REQUIRED WHEN TRAVELING TO THIS REGION. BARBADOS HAS THE BEST

MEDICAL FACILITIES OF ALL THE ISLANDS IN THE REGION AND MOST OF THE MEDICAL SPECIALTIES HAVE PRACTITIONERS HERE.

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